

On Monday, October 10, 2011, Senior Judge Joel Lazarus was presented with the Sheriff's Special Recognition Award, to honor the judge's courageousness this summer when an armed man entered the central courthouse in Fort Lauderdale.

Entering through an exit door, a distressed man pointed a gun at himself and demanded to speak to a judge. That's when Judge Lazarus stepped in, putting his own safety at risk. When he realized all the man needed was a sympathetic ear, Judge Lazarus sat down with the man, while he still had the gun, and listened to him. The gunman was talked into putting down the weapon and was arrested without incident.

It was because he went above and beyond the call of duty that Judge Lazarus was recognized by Sheriff Al Lamberti with this special honor. Congratulations!